

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A classification method for classifying all images in an image database is disclosed. The method includes the steps of extracting a query image from a plurality of images in an image database, searching, according to a predetermined similarity level, for a representative image resembling the query image in a representative image classification database in which groups of images are represented by respective representative images, registering the query image as a new representative image in the representative image classification database when no resembling representative image is found as a result of the search according to the predetermined similarity level, and adding the query image into a group represented by the resembling representative image found as a result of the search according to the predetermined similarity level.